(b) The Government has not received any survey relating to negative report from anywhere inside the country or from abroad in this regard.

(c) and (d) The electronic voting machines have been checked completely in April, 1990, by an expert committee constituted by the Government and consisting of Prof. P.V. Indiresan, Dr. C. Rao Kasarbada and Prof. Sampath, which has given its unanimous report that these machines cannot be tampered with. There is no possibility of misuse of electronic voting machines as these machines used for elections conducted and monitored by the Election Commission of India are manufactured and supplied only as per the Commission's requirement (by two Central Public Sector Undertakings, namely, M/s Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore and M/s Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad) and these machines always remain in proper security under the custody of Government officials authorized by law.

Vacancy of judges in High Courts

458. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in various High Courts in the country;

(b) the details of the vacancy period; and

(c) the action taken by Government to ensure that these vacancies are filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Government has been periodically reminding the Chief Justices of High Courts and the Chief Ministers of the States to initiate proposals for filling up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancies	Date of Vacancy
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	95	87	8	14.07.2006 10.04.2006 03.04.2006 01.03.2006 01.12.2005 11.11.2005 31.08.2005 28.08.2005
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	34	5	23.05.2005 03.05.2005 20.03.2005 02.03.2005 02.01.2005
3.	Bombay	61	61	0	—
4.	Calcutta	50	45	5	24.11.2005 10.11.2005 04.10.2005 09.09.2005 21.08.2005
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	7	1	03.09.2006
6.	Delhi	36	34	2	27.06.2006 04.04.2006
7.	Gauhati	23	22	1	23.12.2005 20.08.2006 19.07.2006 07.08.2005 04.03.2005
8.	Gujarat	42	33	9	10.12.2004 22.08.2004 10.06.2004 07.06.2004 19.12.2002
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8	6	2	12.04.2006 28.03.2006

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	8	6	04.05.2006 17.01.2006 15.10.2005 20.08.2005 05.07.2004 24.03.2002
11.	Jharkhand	12	10	2	13.08.2005 01.07.2005
12.	Karnataka	40	34	6	06.10.2006 02.05.2006 09.09.2005 17.08.2005 20.03.2005 24.05.2004
13.	Kerala	29	26	3	18.07.2006 24.05.2006 17.09.2004
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41	39	2	04.08.2006 06.06.2004
15.	Madras	45	44	1	13.11.2006
16.	Orissa	20	16	4	24.11.2004 22.03.2004 22.03.2004 03.03.2004
17.	Patna	31	30	1	04.08.2006
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	37	3	22.03.2006 23.02.2006 14.01.2006
19.	Rajasthan	40	31	9	17.06.2006 01.01.2006 (2 vacancies) 08.03.2005 25.02.2005 20.02.2005 20.10.2004 7.06.1004 29.06.2003
20.	Sikkim	3	3	0	—
21.	Uttaranchal	9	9	0	—
	TOTAL	686	616	70	